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# The FAO-CIHEAM Interregional Cooperative Research Network on Nuts



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The FAO-CIHEAM Interregional Cooperative Research Network on Nuts (FAO-CIHEAM Nut Network) was established in 1990, after an expert consultation organized by FAO (REU, RNE and AGPS). Exchange of scientific information, joint applied research, exchange of germplasm and establishment of links between researchers were identified as the main objectives. In 1996, FAO and CIHEAM agreed to co-sponsor the Network. CIHEAM was already involved in fostering research activities on nut trees.

The Network structure is based on a Coordination Centre (Coordinator and Secretary), supported by different Sub-networks (Working Groups), each one with its liaison officer and the mission of fostering and coordinating specific activities. IRTA Mas de Bover (Spain) has been the Coordination Centre from the start of the Network activities in 1990. Today, the Network has 7 Sub-networks (6 tree-crop species and 1 miscellaneous): Almond, Chestnut, Hazelnut, Pistachio, Stone Pine, Walnut, all of them having a Liaison Officer as Coordinator, and one miscellaneous, including Pecan, Genetic Resources and Economics, which is included in the general coordination. Two representatives, one from each supporting institution (FAO and CIHEAM) are also integrated in managing the Network.

The general activities of the FAO-CIHEAM Research Nut Network are proposed, discussed, agreed and planned in the Technical Consultations (participation of representatives of the member countries) and at the Coordination Board meetings (FAO and CIHEAM Officers, Network Coordinator and Sub-network Liaison Officers).

The main activities carried out during the last 20 years have been:

- (i) Organization of specific meetings and workshops.
- (ii) Promotion of R&D activities.
- (iii) Edition of proceedings and reports.
- (iv) Edition of inventories of germplasm and research lines.
- (v) Edition of the NUCIS Newsletter.
- (vi) Organization of two international courses on "Nut Production and Economy".
- (vii) Training grants for young researchers.

The Subnetwork on Stone Pine resumed its activities since the Coordination Board Meeting of the FAO-CIHEAM Network on Nuts, held in 2009. Agropine 2011 has been the first international meeting organized by this Subnetwork in this new period, and it is expected that more events and activities focusing on *Pinus pinea* will be developed in the future under the FAO-CIHEAM Network on Nuts.